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## National Governor's Association Symposium



The National Governor's Association hosted a Best Practices Symposium in Denver to promote Early

Childhood Advisory Council Leadership. First 5 California Executive Director Executive Director Kris Perry served on the California team with Diane Levin from the Secretary of Education's office and Camille Maben from the California Department of Education. "Together we were able to talk to and learn from more than 30 other state representatives about their efforts to lead Early Childhood policy change," Perry said. "It was great to meet and talk with so many experts all working toward the same goal. Other states are very interested in what California is doing."

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## RAND Study Spotlights First 5 Preschool Programs



A study released June 18 by the RAND Corporation highlights the First 5 San Francisco and First 5 San Mateo County Power of Preschool programs as successful models for providing high-quality preschool. Overall RAND found the quality of the state's preschools is mixed, with most programs falling short in key aspects of preparing children for kindergarten. These findings reiterate the importance of First 5 school readiness efforts in preparing kids for success in school.

First 5 California helped raise awareness of the study's key findings and offered tips for parents looking for quality preschool programs in a June 20 segment with Communications Director Elisa Bupara on *Univision Fresno* and a June 24

segment with Kris Perry on *KCRA-3* in Sacramento.

The entire RAND California Preschool Study can be found at [www.preschoolcalifornia.org/rand-study](http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/rand-study).

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### **Web-based Reporting Forms Released**

The Research and Evaluation Division is pleased to announce the release of new Web-based Reporting Forms for the Annual Report and School Readiness, in addition to revised Annual Report and School Readiness Guidelines for the FY 07/08 reporting period. This system is the culmination of a year's planning and in response to many county suggestions for enhanced reporting features and simplified processes to enter and report data to First 5 California. We would like to thank all of the First 5 California staff, contracted staff and developers, and all county representatives that assisted in testing the new system and provided valuable feedback on Guidelines and other instructions. The User Access Instructions, updated Guidelines, Appendices, and a link to the Web-based forms are available at

<http://www.first5eval.com/reporting0708.htm>.

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### **Hands-on Health Van Completes another Tour**



Phase 5 of the Hands-on Health mobile van tour wrapped up in June, with visits to more than two dozen counties, reaching roughly

58,000 Californians in just over a two-month period. The theme for Phase 5 was oral health and, through our corporate partnership with Dr. Fresh, First 5 California gave away thousands of free toothbrushes and coupons to families.

Phase 6 is kicking off in late July with a nutrition-themed tour to continue through the fall.

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### **Evaluation Technical Assistance**

The Research and Evaluation Team held a technical assistance conference call on June 24. The notes from this call and information about accessing the conference call recording are on the First 5 Web site under [Statewide Evaluation](#). Please check the Web site for details regarding the next technical assistance conference call scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2008 from 10:00-10:30 am.

As a reminder, if you have any evaluation questions or if you need assistance with PEDS, please e-mail [evaluation@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:evaluation@ccfc.ca.gov).

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### **Something to Smile About**

The Oral Health Education and Training project, also known as First Smiles, recently released its final evaluation report. The report found that oral health professionals are taking advantage of the program. Highlights from the report include:

- A total of 15,230 California dental and medical providers attended a First Smiles training.
- The program drew a more diverse population of dentists and physicians in race/ethnicity, gender and years in practice compared to those professionals in active practice in California.
- More than 90 percent of providers who took a First Smiles course reported being satisfied with the training, learning new information and skills and believing they could apply the information in their practices.
- Female general dentists were significantly more likely than male general dentists to start seeing children at younger ages.

The final evaluation report can be found on the

First Smiles Web site [www.First5OralHealth.org](http://www.First5OralHealth.org).

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## **Budget and Legislative Update**

Proposition 10 revenues continue to receive increased attention as the Legislature and Governor look for ways to cut an approximately \$16 billion budget deficit. Lawmakers that appreciate the work being done by First 5 California and the First 5 county commissions are looking at Prop. 10 funds as a possible revenue source to offset the budget gap.

Senator Cox introduced a bill on June 17 that would redirect all revenues received pursuant to Proposition 10 to the General Fund for purposes of funding the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs. SBX3 16 would require voter approval during the next statewide election. It calls for the distribution of funds held by First 5 state and county commissions that remain unencumbered on the date that the bill's provisions are approved by the voters.

First 5 California and the county commissions continue to look for ways to be part of this year's budget solution to help support programs for young children.

## Preschool Legislation

First 5 California supports two important preschool reform bills, SB 1629 (Steinberg) and AB 2759 (Jones).

SB 1629 would establish a commission to create an early learning quality improvement system. The provisions of this bill include a framework for improving program quality and an enhanced funding structure that provides the necessary resources for programs to achieve higher quality, and the support and opportunity for teachers to reach higher levels of educational attainment. The bill would allow the commission to apply to First 5 California and other sources for funding to cover costs. The bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2759 would streamline and consolidate the state's existing preschool programs that serve children 3-to-5 years of age. The bill is currently in the Senate Education Committee.

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### Statewide Conference Packets



First 5 California Statewide Conference materials in the original packages and tote bag are currently available. If counties would like additional sets for their staff who could not attend, please contact Julia Rodden at [jrodden@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:jrodden@ccfc.ca.gov).

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### Annual Report and School Readiness Training

Research and Evaluation staff will be coming to a location near you in July and August to provide training for First 5 county commission contractors and staff on accessing the new Web-based forms and reporting Annual Report and School Readiness data. Training locations include Willows, San Leandro, San Diego and Sacramento. We will also offer "GoToMeeting" (Web-based meetings). Please check <http://www.first5eval.com/reportingtools.htm> for additional information on training dates and locations. Registration for training is required. We look forward to seeing you and demonstrating the new features of the Web-based Reporting Forms!

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### Emmy Award Nominatio



First 5 California Executive Director Kris Perry congratulates Elizabeth Sanchez, host of "A Place of Our Own."

The First 5 California-funded KCET show "A Place of Our Own" garnered

a Daytime Emmy Award nomination and First 5 representatives were on hand in Hollywood to share in the show's exciting accomplishment. The nomination – in the Outstanding Talk Show Informative – category is produced locally and targets caregivers of young children. The show tackles important developmental issues such as detecting autism and bonding and attachment, among other important topics. Although the show did not take home the grand prize this time, it and its Spanish-language companion "*Los Niños en Su Casa*" have previously won numerous other awards.

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### **CARES Funding Awards Announced**

In January 2008 the State Commission authorized additional funding for an 18-month period to extend the Comprehensive Approaches for the Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Program. In April 2008, First 5 California released the CARES Round 4 Extension Request for Funding. All 44 county commissions currently participating in the CARES program applied for Round 4 Extension funding. On June 19, 2008, First 5 California released the CARES Round 4 Extension program award notifications approving an additional \$7,931,652 in program funds. The CARES Round 4 Extension program begins July 1, 2008 and is scheduled to end December 31, 2009.

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### **Principles on Equity Brochure**



The newly-published Principles on Equity brochures are available to First 5 staff and for the county commissions. If you are interested in receiving a supply of brochures please contact Joan Dutra at [jdutra@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:jdutra@ccfc.ca.gov).

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### **Father's Day Media Activities**

First 5 county commissions continue to make the news, bringing the public important information on First 5 programs and services. In fact, since January, commissions have collaborated with the First 5 California County Technical Assistance team to secure more than 1,000 positive news stories.

As a recent example, Father's Day radio promotions with multiple Bay Area Spanish-language radio stations were effective in promoting the *Kit for New Parents*. A group of *Univision* radio stations conducted call-in giveaways of the *Kit*, leading to 75 on-air mentions and the distribution of more than 60 *Kits* to listeners. One of the top Spanish-language stations in the Bay Area – KRZZ 93.3 FM – enlisted its "street team" to promote the *Kit* during its live remote broadcasts from several community events and family-friendly locales.

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### **School Readiness (SR) Evaluation**

As part of the statewide evaluation of SR programs, First 5 California is seeking a contractor to conduct a meta-analysis of local SR evaluation reports. To begin this project, we are asking counties to submit their most recent SR local evaluation reports. Please send your reports to [evaluation@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:evaluation@ccfc.ca.gov) if you have not done so already. To find out if we have your county's report, check the CD we sent to executive directors on April 15, 2008 ("School Readiness Evaluations FY 06-07"), or you may contact [evaluation@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:evaluation@ccfc.ca.gov).

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### **Impact of Late State Budget**

First 5 California anticipates beginning the fiscal year without a state budget in place. When there is a delay in the Governor's signing of a budget for the new budget year, significant spending constraints are imposed on state agencies. These restrictions apply to FY 2008-09 expenditures and/or payments for program activities authorized



after June 30, 2008. First 5 California cannot disburse or reimburse program funds for FY 2008-09 until the Governor signs FY 2008-09 budget.

The monthly distribution of tax revenues to county commissions will not be impacted by the delayed budget.

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## **County Fund Distributions**

The Monthly tax revenue distributions and other disbursements for FY 2007-08 are available on the First 5 California Web site at [www.ccfc.ca.gov/commission/fiscal.asp](http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/commission/fiscal.asp). The report titled "Disbursement to Counties" provides current information on the total funds to date authorized for release by First 5 California to First 5 county commissions.

Since the release of the June County Connection, First 5 California authorized the State Controller's Office to release to county commissions the following revenues and disbursements:

- April and May 2008 Tax Revenues
- School Readiness Program Cycle 1 and Cycle 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Program disbursements: all remaining FY 2007-08 School Readiness Program, second disbursement and Coordination Fund payments have been authorized for payment.
- CARES reimbursements: all FY 2007-08 CARES program reimbursement requests have been authorized for payment.
- Health Access reimbursements: all FY 2007-08 Health Access reimbursement invoices received have been authorized for payment.

Those counties that have not already received the program disbursement payments should expect the checks in approximately 4-5 weeks.

If you have questions regarding tax revenue, please contact Sandy Beck at (916) 263-1018, or by e-mail at [sbeck@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:sbeck@ccfc.ca.gov). For questions regarding program funding, contact your assigned



program consultant.

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**REMINDER: Health and Safety Code Section 130140(d) Compliance Certifications are due**

On or before July 1 of each state fiscal year, county commissions must demonstrate compliance with Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 130140(d) to remain eligible to receive tax revenues. To facilitate compliance with HSC Section 130140(d) requirements, First 5 California has issued Fiscal Memo 08-01: Health and Safety Code Section 130140(d) Compliance Certification. Fiscal Memo 08-01 is available on the First 5 California Web site at:

<http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/commission/fiscal.asp>. A complete certification form with attachments or documents to demonstrate compliance must be submitted by each county commission to First 5 California on or before July 1, 2008 to remain eligible for tax disbursements beginning with the July 2008 tax revenues. If you have questions regarding this matter, contact Sandy Beck, Fiscal Operations Manager at 916-263-1018 or by e-mail at [sbeck@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:sbeck@ccfc.ca.gov).

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